



NHS

plans:

Bad news for patients

- Government plans for the NHS will make it harder to get the treatment you need.
- They call it '**integrated care**', but it really means cuts to NHS services and more profit for private companies.

The NHS in England is being broken up into 42 'Integrated Care Systems' (ICSs). Now, the Health and Care Bill 2021 aims to make them legal.

Under the new plans, each ICS will have a separate budget and the power to decide which services to provide. This marks the end of a *national* health service, sets up a postcode lottery for care, and will lead to growing health inequalities.

Why the plans are bad news

- More opportunities for firms to take profits from the NHS, leaving less money for patient services
- More companies given access to confidential patient information, with no clear protection for patient privacy
- More digital services, creating a two-tier health service, depending on whether you have or lack access to computers or smart phones
- Fewer face-to face appointments with GPs, and less chance of seeing the same health worker
- More patient care given by less qualified (cheaper) staff, directed by computers and manuals
- Growing expectation that patients will 'self-care', using phone apps or websites for advice or information
- More risk that services will be cut or rationed, and non-urgent referrals to hospital delayed or refused because of pressure on ICSs to make savings
- Faster discharge from hospital, with family carers expected to take on more unpaid care due to lack of community services

- Further loss of routine services from local hospitals. Plans to save costs include specialist hospitals replacing local general hospitals that are more convenient for patients and visitors.

The Health and Care Bill will allow ICSs to include private companies on their boards, where they will make decisions about which services to provide, who provides them & where.

Around 200 firms, including dozens of US health insurance companies and their suppliers, are already on approved lists, ready to help develop and run services for ICSs.

What you can do

Write to your MP urging them to oppose the Bill and ICSs.

Go to the website of Keep our NHS Public for our petition and more info: keepournhspublic.com/campaigns/legislative-changes/integrated-care/

We want a comprehensive health service that is available to all, publicly funded, publicly provided, publicly accountable and free at the point of use – with clinicians able to focus on the patient, their condition and the best available treatment.



www.keepournhspublic.com